

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 10135 141503Z
ACTION EUR-12

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SP-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01
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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9829
USMISSION GENEVA

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GENEVA FOR AMBASSADOR WARNKE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM, UR, US, XO
SUBJECT: SOVIET-U.S. INDIAN OCEAN TALKS: PRESS POLICY AND
TIMING FOR ROUND TWO

REF: (A) STATE 159688, (B) MOSCOW 10089, (C) STATE 161501

SUMMARY: MENDELEVICH CLAIMED TASS JULY 1 INDIAN OCEAN
COMMENTS DO NOT CONTRAVENE AGREEMENT ON PRESS COMMENTARY.
HE SAID SOVIETS PREFER EARLY OCTOBER DATE FOR NEXT ROUND
OF TALKS EITHER IN MOSCOW OR WASHINGTON. END SUMMARY.

1. AFTER DISCUSSING DRAFT TEXTS FOR USE WITH UN AD HOC
COMMITTEE (AS REPORTED REF B), CONVERSATION BETWEEN POL
COUNS AND EMBOFF WITH MENDELEVICH AND PALENYKH JULY 13
TURNED TO THE QUESTION OF THE JULY 1 TASS COMMENTARY (REF A).
MENDELEVICH SAID HE WAS COMPLETELY FAMILIAR WITH THE TASS
COMMENTS BUT BELIEVED THAT UPI HAD NOT PUBLISHED THESE
COMMENTS COMPLETELY AND MAY HAVE GIVEN U.S. READERS AN
INACCURATE IMPRESSION. EMBOFFS ASSURED MENDELEVICH THAT
WASHINGTON WAS IN POSSESSION OF A COMPLETE TEXT AND
THAT WARNKE'S COMMENTS WERE MADE ON THE BASIS OF THE
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COMPLETE TASS TEXT.

2. MENDELEVICH ASKED THAT WE CONVEY TO WASHINGTON THAT
THE SOVIET SIDE WISHES TO CONFIRM THE AGREEMENT
REACHED DURING THE FIRST ROUND OF INDIAN OCEAN TALKS
NOT TO INFORM THE PRESS OF THE SUBSTANCE OF THE TALKS.
HE NOTED THAT HE HAD PERSONALLY GIVEN INSTRUCTIONS TO THE

MFA PRESS DIVISION TO THIS EFFECT AND THAT IN HIS OPINION THESE INSTRUCTIONS ARE BEING "STRICTLY FOLLOWED." HOWEVER, MENDELEVICH ARGUED THAT THE AGREEMENT REACHED DID NOT EXCLUDE ALL PRESS COMMENT WHICH MIGHT DISCUSS THE ISSUES INVOLVED IN THE INDIAN OCEAN AREA. THE EXCLUSION, HE SAID, ONLY APPLIES TO DISCLOSURE OF THE SUBSTANCE OF THE POSITIONS TAKEN IN THE TALKS. IN HIS OPINION THE TASS COMMENTARY DID NOT, THEREFORE, VIOLATE U.S. AGREEMENT SINCE IT DID NOT DISCLOSE ANY OF THE SUBSTANCE OF THE BILATERAL CONVERSATIONS. IN CLOSING ON THIS POINT HE REMARKED THAT HE "DID NOT EXCLUDE" THE POSSIBILITY OF MORE COMMENTARY IN THE SOVIET PRESS ON INDIAN OCEAN ISSUES.

3. TURNING TO THE QUESTION OF THE NEXT ROUND, MENDELEVICH SAID THE SOVIETS CAN AGREE TO EITHER WASHINGTON OR MOSCOW AND THAT THE LOCATION IS "YOUR CHOICE." AS TO THE TIMING HE SAID THE SOVIETS, FOR "ADMINISTRATIVE REASONS," WOULD PREFER TO MEET IN THE BEGINNING OF OCTOBER RATHER THAN IN LATE SEPTEMBER AS WAS PREVIOUSLY SUGGESTED. HOWEVER, IF THIS CREATES ANY PROBLEMS ON THE U.S. SIDE, PARTICULARLY IF U.S. BELIEVES THERE IS SOME "POLITICAL MOTIVATION" BEHIND THE PREFERENCE FOR OCTOBER, (AND THERE IS NOT, HE ADDED) SOVIETS WILL BE ABLE TO MEET IN LATE SEPTEMBER. HE ASKED THAT WE CONVEY THESE THOUGHTS TO WASHINGTON AND INVITED A RESPONSE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE SO THAT

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ADMINISTRATIVE PLANNING COULD BEGIN ON THE SOVIET SIDE.

4. POL COUNS ALSO GAVE MENDELEVICH TEXT OF WHITE HOUSE STATEMENT AS INSTRUCTED IN REF C. MENDELEVICH READ IT WITH THE COMMENT THAT HE HAD ALREADY SEEN THE TASS VERSION BUT THAT HE APPRECIATED BEING GIVEN THE OFFICIAL TEXT.

TOON

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 14-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
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Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
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